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SOME INSECTS
AID GARDENER

The wise home gardener recognizes and encourages her insect friends, for some of the insects commonly found on garden plants are of great help in destroying insects that are pests.

The familiar small red-or orange-colored beetle with black spots on its back, called the "lady beetle" or lady bird," is one of the most helpful of all insects because it eats the plant lice or aphids that attack so many garden plants. Lady beetles also eat the eggs of many other injurious insects. Entomologists find that an adult lady beetle requires a daily ration of 50 to 80 plant lice. Mistaken gardeners have sometimes supposed that these small beetles were the parents of aphids or plant lice, rather than their enemies.

Another insect that feeds on aphids is a green sluglike magget about half an inch long, often marked with whitish stripes. These maggets also are often seen in the company of aphids on plants because they are feeding on these pests. The small yellow black-banded syrphus fly is the adult of these helpful green worms.

Still other helpful insects are ground beetles, lace-wing flies, and tachina flies which do much to cut down the number of insects that feed upon plants in the garden.

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